

25X1
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE:

SUBJECT Conference on the Establishment of a
Central Government

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPPLEMENT

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- 25X1 1. CDU leader Ernst Lemmer recently told a friend that a meeting of the Minister-
25X1 Presidents of the Russian Zone, plus representatives of all the political
25X1 parties, was called on 24 June 1947 at the Berlin House of Soviet Culture.
The purpose of the conference was the discussion of the possibility of setting
up a central government for the Russian Zone.
2. SED speakers, especially Wilhelm Pieck and Dr. Steinhoff, Minister-President
of Brandenburg, demanded that such a government be established in view of
the fact that the Western Economic Council was the equivalent of a central
government for the U.S. and British Zones.
3. Jakob Kaiser of the CDU and Artur Lieutenant of the LDP objected, declaring
that the Economic Council was in no way a central government. Kaiser argued
that the economic fusion of the British and American zones had been forced
upon the western powers by Soviet opposition to a central government for all
of Germany. He added that a central government for the Russian Zone would
be the first step to a final partition of Germany and declared that the -
CDU rejected such a policy.
4. Wilhelm Pieck's son, Artur (a former Red Army major who has lived twelve
years in the USSR), was the first to be suggested by the SED as a possible
Minister-President of the united Russian Zone. His candidacy was, however,
opposed by the CDU, the LDP, former members of the SPD, and by some SED
representatives, including Grotewohl. The rejection of Artur Pieck was
followed by the nomination of Dr. Steinhoff, which was met with stubborn
opposition from the same circles. The SED was then forced to propose less
prominent politicians like Selbmann of Saxony and Leuschner of Berlin.
Objections were again raised. The final nomination was that of Fritz Ebert,
son of the former President, an ex-Social Democrat with a weak personality.
The SED is hopeful of his acceptance since they expect him to follow their
wishes.
5. The CDU will put up a strong fight against the establishment of a central
government for the Russian Zone, but leaders fear that Soviet pressure will
result in a compromise arrangement whereby such a central government will
initially be called an "economic council".

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